

Shifting Crop Acres

Extensive rains and flooding during June caused producers in several Midwestern States to change their harvesting intentions for crops already planted, modify planting decisions for acres not yet planted, and consider replanting options. NASS collected most of the data for the annual Acreage report before the majority of the flooding occurred. In an effort to more accurately determine how many acres producers still intend to harvest for grain NASS re-interviewed approximately 1,200 farmers June 23-25 in the flood-affected areas. NASS will conduct a more extensive acreage update survey during July. Findings from this study will be included in the August Crop Production report.

Nationally, corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is the second highest since 1946, behind last year's total of 93.6 million acres. Growers expect to harvest 78.9 million acres for grain, down 9 percent from 2007. If realized, this would be the second highest grain harvest since 1944, behind last year. In the U.S., 80 percent of corn was planted to a biotechnology variety; half of those acres were planted to stacked gene varieties. Wisconsin farmers planted 3.80 million acres of corn for all purposes, down 6 percent from last year and the same acreage as planted in 2005. Acres intended for grain harvest are 3.10 million acres in Wisconsin.

Statewide, farmers used a biotechnology variety on 75 percent of the corn acres. Stacked gene varieties continue to increase accounting for 35 percent of the total corn acres planted.

U.S. soybean planted area for 2008 is estimated at 74.5 million acres, up 17 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Area for harvest, at 72.1 million acres, is up 15 percent from 2007. Compared with last year, planted acreage increases are expected in all States, and the U.S. planted area for soybeans is the third largest on record. Nationwide farmers used herbicide resistant soybean varieties on 92 percent of the crop. Wisconsin farmers planted 1.65 million acres to soybeans, the same acreage as 2006. Harvest acreage is intended to be 1.56 million acres. In Wisconsin, 90 percent of the soybean crop is planted to a herbicide resistant variety.

Nationwide, farmers anticipate harvesting 20.8 million acres of dry alfalfa hay, down from last year. Acreage intended for dry alfalfa hay harvest in Wisconsin decreased from 1.65 million acres last year to 1.50 million acres this year. U.S. farmers expect to harvest 39.7 million acres of all other dry hay, down from a year ago. Wisconsin all other dry hay acres harvested are expected to reach 450,000 acres, up from last year.

Winter and spring wheat acres are up at the national and state level. Nationally, winter wheat was planted to 46.6 million acres, an increase of 4 percent. Winter wheat harvested as grain, at 40.3 million acres, jumped 12 percent from last year. Wisconsin winter wheat acreage planted increased 21 percent to reach 350,000 acres. Nationally, spring wheat was planted to 14.2 million acres and is expected to be harvested on 13.8 million acres in 2008. Wisconsin spring wheat acres planted at 25,000 acres almost triple the acreage planted last year. Nationally planting and harvesting intentions for oats decreased, while barley intentions increased from last year. State level oat and barley planting and harvesting intentions are unchanged from 2007.

Crop	Planted and Harvested Acreage			
	Planted		Harvested	
	2007	2008*	2007	2008*
Thousand Acres				
WISCONSIN				
Corn, all	4,050	3,800	3,280	3,100
Soybeans	1,350	1,650	1,330	1,560
Oats	270	270	160	160
Barley	40	40	23	23
Winter wheat	290	350	270	330
Spring wheat	9	25	8	24
Alfalfa hay (dry)	-	-	1,650	1,500
All other hay (dry)	-	-	370	450
Dry edible beans	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9
UNITED STATES				
Corn, all	93,600	87,327	86,542	78,940
Soybeans	63,631	74,533	62,820	72,121
Oats	3,760	3,467	1,505	1,443
Barley	4,020	4,130	3,508	3,640
Winter wheat	44,987	46,605	35,952	40,252
Spring wheat	13,297	14,197	12,947	13,751
Alfalfa hay (dry)	-	-	21,670	20,778
All other hay (dry)	-	-	39,955	39,661
Dry edible beans	1,527	1,398	1,479	1,339

* June forecast. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO